



Delaware and Hudson Books of Minutes Surface in California

by S. Robert Powell

"AN ACT to Incorporate the President, Managers and Company of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company" was passed by a two-thirds vote of the New York State legislature, with the approval of the Governor, and became law on April 23, 1823. One hundred and fifty or more years later, the final residue of "America's oldest continuously-operated transportation company" (the D&H), ended up in the holdings of the International House of Pancakes in the Los Angeles area in California. The precise path by which those D&H corporate remains ended up in the holdings of companies acquired by IHOP Corporation is not known, and, for our purposes, knowing that path is not really important.

What is important, for our purposes, is that James Stamm was working for IHOP Corporation at the time, and that he was charged with clearing out/getting rid of items acquired by IHOP Corporation from companies acquired by IHOP Corporation in previous years that IHOP no longer wanted. In doing so, James Stamm (whose father was a railroad inspector in Kansas) came across and acquired three volumes of Delaware and Hudson Company minutes. He recognized, immediately, the historical importance of these three volumes and gave it his best to find a home for them, but was not successful in doing so. In December 2021, he passed away.

In May 2023, his wife, Nancy Stamm, contacted Barbara Bachorz, at the Bridge Line Historical Society, and told her about the three volumes of D&H corporate minutes, and said that she was hoping to find a permanent home for them. Barbara and Jim recognized immediately the historical

importance of these volumes and contacted the present writer and told him about them. "Such wonderful news," said he, "We must get these volumes."

The present writer contacted Nancy Stamm and told her that the Carbondale Historical Society would be very pleased to add these three volumes to its D&H archives, and would be happy to pay to have them shipped to Pennsylvania. ("They're quite heavy," said Nancy. The books were shipped. The weight of three volumes is such that it cost—no complaints on our part, to be sure--\$150 have them shipped, UPS Ground, from California.). Photographs of these three remarkable volumes, 11" x 16 x 3"--two of which have locks on them (the locks are now open)--are shown here.

The three volumes: (1) "Minutes. Volume No. 6: January 5, 1894—December 30, 1903, Inc. Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, 498 pages"; (2) "Minutes. Volume No. 7: January 27, 1904—January 2, 1907, Inc. The Delaware and Hudson Company, 312 pages; and (3) "Minutes. No. 1: December 4, 1928—December 30, 1936, The Delaware and Hudson Railroad Corporation, 478 pages."

The three volumes contain 1,288 pages of minutes of the meetings of the D&H Board of Directors for 22 years! What an unbelievable resource. I will begin at once to read these three remarkable volumes. Newly learned facts and revelations about the D&H will be reported in the pages of this publication in the months ahead! Stay tuned.

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